

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended)

A single piece tension-varying slider for a set of three slats in a bed base, the set comprising two parallel slats in the plane on which the mattress rests together with a lower slat disposed substantially in the vertical midplane between the two upper slats, said slats being supported at their ends by fixing securing means engaging the longitudinally-extending members of the frame of the bed base, said slider comprising a suspension device for bearing against the lower slat, and fixing means for fixing said device to the upper slats;

wherein the fixing means comprise a strip for being placed across and over said upper slats, said strip having a respective bend at each of its ends for co-operating with respective outer edges of said two upper slats, only one of the bends being connected to the suspension device by a junction wall.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended)

A tension-varying slider according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein the catch means for preventing the suspension device from moving on the lower slat comprise further comprising a third bend co-operating with a side edge of the lower slat for preventing the suspension device from moving on the lower slat.

Claim 4 (Original)

A tension-varying slider according to claim 3, wherein the third bend is disposed on the side remote from the junction wall.

Claim 5 (Cancelled)

Claim 6 (Currently Amended)

A tension-varying slider according to ~~claim 6~~ claim 1, wherein the means for preventing the suspension device from moving under the upper slats comprise further comprising a tongue secured to the suspension device and extending substantially symmetrically to the junction wall about the vertical midplane between the two upper slats, said tongue serving to bear against the underside of an upper slat for

preventing the suspension device from moving under the upper slats.

Claim 7 (Original)

A tension-varying slider according to claim 1, wherein the strip further comprises two lugs extending downwards from the sides of the strip, for being received in the gap between the two upper slats.

Claim 8 (Original)

A tension-varying slider according to claim 1, wherein the strip carries a vertical peg on its bottom face for being received at least in part in an orifice formed in the top wall of the suspension device.

Claim 9 (Original)

A tension-varying slider according to claim 1, wherein the suspension device is in the form of a sleeve.

Claim 10 (Original)

A tension-varying slider according to claim 1, the slider being made of an elastomer or thermoplastic type material.

Claim 11 (New Claim)

A single piece tension-varying slider for a set of three slats in a bed base, the set comprising two parallel slats in the plane on which the mattress rests together with a lower slat disposed substantially in the vertical midplane between the two upper slats, said slats being supported at their ends by securing means engaging the longitudinally-extending members of the frame of the bed base, said slider comprising a suspension device for bearing against the lower slat, and fixing means for fixing said device to the upper slats;

wherein the fixing means comprise a strip for being placed across and over said upper slats, said strip having a respective bend at each of its ends for co-operating with respective outer edges of said two upper slats, one of the bends being connected to the suspension device by a junction wall, and

wherein the single piece tension-varying slider further comprises a third bend co-operating with a side edge of the lower slat for preventing the suspension device from moving on the lower slat.

Claim 12 (New Claim)

A tension-varying slider according to claim 11, wherein the third bend is disposed on the side remote from the junction wall.

Claim 13 (New Claim)

A single piece tension-varying slider for a set of three slats in a bed base, the set comprising two parallel slats in the plane on which the mattress rests together with a lower slat disposed substantially in the vertical midplane between the two upper slats, said slats being supported at their ends by securing means engaging the longitudinally-extending members of the frame of the bed base, said slider comprising a suspension device for bearing against the lower slat, and fixing means for fixing said device to the upper slats;

wherein the fixing means comprise a strip for being placed across and over said upper slats, said strip having a respective bend at each of its ends for co-operating with respective outer edges of said two upper slats, one of the bends being connected to the suspension device by a junction wall, and

wherein the single piece tension-varying slider further comprises a tongue secured to the suspension device

and extending substantially symmetrically to the junction wall about the vertical midplane between the two upper slats, said tongue serving to bear against the underside of an upper slat for preventing the suspension device from moving under the upper slats.

Claim 14 (New Claim)

A single piece tension-varying slider for a set of three slats in a bed base, the set comprising two parallel slats in the plane on which the mattress rests together with a lower slat disposed substantially in the vertical midplane between the two upper slats, said slats being supported at their ends by securing means engaging the longitudinally-extending members of the frame of the bed base, said slider comprising a suspension device for bearing against the lower slat, and fixing means for fixing said device to the upper slats;

wherein the fixing means comprise a strip for being placed across and over said upper slats, said strip having a respective bend at each of its ends for co-operating with respective outer edges of said two upper slats, one of the bends being connected to the suspension device by a junction wall, and

wherein the strip further comprises two lugs extending downwards from the sides of the strip for being received in the gap between the two upper slats.

Claim 15 (New Claim)

A single piece tension-varying slider for a set of three slats in a bed base, the set comprising two parallel slats in the plane on which the mattress rests together with a lower slat disposed substantially in the vertical midplane between the two upper slats, said slats being supported at their ends by securing means engaging the longitudinally-extending members of the frame of the bed base, said slider comprising a suspension device for bearing against the lower slat, and fixing means for fixing said device to the upper slats;

wherein the fixing means comprise a strip for being placed across and over said upper slats, said strip having a respective bend at each of its ends for co-operating with respective outer edges of said two upper slats, one of the bends being connected to the suspension device by a junction wall, and

wherein the strip carries a vertical peg on its bottom face for being received at least in part in an orifice formed in the top wall of the suspension device.